

Weyerhaeuser Longview -- APR 17 2001

Chlor-Alkali Plant Cleanup

Environmental Cleanup



Proposed Feasibility Study and Cleanup

Under the authority of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D), the Washington Department of Ecology is making available a Feasibility Study that the Weyerhaeuser Company developed for a contaminated site in the Longview area. The Feasibility Study evaluates cleanup alternatives and recommends a remedy for residual mercury contamination in soil and groundwater at the closed Chlor-Alkali Plant in Weyerhaeuser's mill complex.

Your written comments on the Feasibility Study are welcome during a public comment period. The dates for the comment period and the locations where you can review the Feasibility Study are in the box at right.

What Is a Feasibility Study?

The purpose of a Feasibility Study (combined with the Remedial Investigation that preceded it) is to collect, develop, and evaluate enough information about a site so that a cleanup remedy can be selected. The Feasibility Study defines cleanup levels for the identified contaminants in soils and groundwater, evaluates potentially feasible cleanup alternatives, and recommends a preferred alternative.

Site Background

In the mid-1950s, the Weyerhaeuser Company began producing chlorine and caustic for its pulp and paper mills. The production technology used elemental mercury. Leaks from pumps,

valves, and process lines resulted in mercury releases to soil in the production area. In addition, there was mercury contamination in process wastes stored onsite. In the mid-1970s, this production process was replaced.

This change effectively ended the production-related loss of mercury to the environment. Several removal actions have taken place since then to eliminate the soils that were most contaminated. However, some of the mercury that was released more than 20 years ago is still detectable at low concentrations in soil and groundwater. Groundwater at the plant, which discharges into the Columbia River, has been monitored for mercury since the 1970s. On the basis of water and sediment sampling upstream of, downstream of, and adjacent to the plant, the Columbia River does not appear to be adversely affected. Additional information on the background and history of the Chlor-Alkali Plant can be found in the *Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Work Plan: Chlor-Alkali Plant, Longview, Washington* (CH2M HILL, 1995).

What is Being Done?

To date, Weyerhaeuser has removed much of the mercury-contaminated soil and has worked with Ecology to assess residual groundwater and surface water contamination, as well as possible impacts to the Columbia River. The

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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

April 16, 2001 to May 18, 2001.

SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY TO:

Cris Matthews
Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6388

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Feasibility Study may be viewed at the following locations:

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA
(360) 407-6949

Longview Public Library
1600 Louisiana
Longview, WA 98632
(360) 577-3380

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If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300 or (360) 407-6306 (TDD).

Feasibility Study presents and evaluates a group of cleanup alternatives and recommends a cleanup method and course of action for residual contamination in onsite soil and groundwater.

What Happens Next?

Involvement in the public participation process will be encouraged through a mailing sent to neighboring properties and interested parties. This mailing will describe the public participation plan and opportunities for involvement.

Ecology will publish the Feasibility Study for public evaluation and comment. This public comment period will run from April 16, 2001 to May 18, 2001. Notice of the public comment period for the Feasibility Study will be advertised in *The Daily News* (the local Longview newspaper) and through a press release. Notice of the availability of the Feasibility Study will also be included in the initial mailing to neighboring properties and interested parties.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You are invited to read and comment on the Feasibility Study. The public comment period presents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. The box on page one provides details on where the documents can be found and how to submit comments. To review documents other than those found in the information repositories, call Cris Matthews of the Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6388.

Please submit your written comments to Cris Matthews at the address shown. Ecology will respond to all written comments received. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or who ask to be placed on the site mailing list.